

*Blue Dog Coalition Will Discuss The Stimulus Package And Fiscal Reform*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) will join his Blue Dog Coalition colleagues in a meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House. They will be discussing the stimulus package and long-term fiscal issues facing Congress. Costa will also ask the President to visit the San Joaquin Valley. Prior to the meeting, Costa released the following statement.

“The stimulus package that is before Congress is an important bill to jump start our economy, but it still needs to be improved. Some of the proposed spending is unnecessary and will not create jobs; therefore we will encourage the President to work with leaders in both parties to come to a common sense agreement on a final bill. Secondly, and just as important, we will discuss the need for strict long-term fiscal discipline and greater spending responsibility during this Congress. I strongly believe that the more debt our nation incurs, the greater risk to our overall national security. As a Blue Dog, I am committed to working with the President, and leaders in Congress to enforce the ‘pay-as-you-go’ policies and long-term economic solutions to clean up this financial mess we’ve inherited.

“Finally, I will be extending an open invitation to President Obama to visit the San Joaquin Valley. My Valley colleagues and I believe that we represent a true reflection of America and I know the President can benefit from this visit and meeting with farmers, business owners and our ethnic communities that show the rich diversities of our nation.”